

Rep. Louise Slaughter, Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules applauded the American Association of Retired Persons and joined them in praising the Affordable Health Care for America Act, noting it would greatly help senior citizens.

“I’m proud to see that in the many organizations that have signed on to support this bill, AARP has joined our coalition and endorsed our bill,” said Slaughter. “They represent 40 million seniors nationwide and understand that this bill will do more to protect seniors and bring down their medical costs than any other single piece of legislation in decades. The reason health care will succeed this time around is because we have support from so many important groups like AARP.”

The Affordable Health Care for America Act passed the House of Representatives Saturday night by a bipartisan vote of 220-215. Slaughter voted for the bill.

The Affordable Health Care for America Act closes the dreaded prescription drug donut hole which hurts seniors who have prescription drug costs totaling more than \$2,700 but less than \$6,154. Currently they receive no relief and pay for their prescriptions out-of-pocket. In Slaughter’s district alone 9,000 seniors are forced to pay their full drug costs despite having Medicare Part D coverage. In the proposed legislation, seniors will see the donut hole reduced in 2010 by \$500 and will have access to 50 percent discounts on brand-name drugs in the donut hole until it is completely phased out by 2019.

Some key provisions of the Affordable Health Care for America Act that will directly help seniors include:

- It will eliminate co-pays on preventive care for things like mammograms, colonoscopies, and hypertension treatment
- It will require reviews of premium increases, which can disproportionately affect seniors who are on a fixed income
- It will ban insurance companies from dropping coverage when Americans get sick
- It will ban discrimination in issuing insurance based on age, and limit the amount premiums can be raised based on age
- And it improves low-income subsidy programs to ensure Medicare is affordable for seniors with low and modest incomes

AARP has 40 million members nationwide. Their all-volunteer Board of Directors comprised of working and retired doctors, nurses, business people, and teachers, endorsed the health care bill last week saying it delivers on key priorities they've been fighting for.

The Affordable Health Care for America Act has been endorsed by many key groups. A full list is available [here](#) some of which include:

- AARP
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American Nurses Association
- Doctors for America
- Small Business Majority
- U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce